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## IN THE NATION

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# Is 1986 Necessary?

**F**or anyone who survived 1984, 1985 etc., it's not hard to predict what will happen in 1986:

Jan. 10 — The constitutionality of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction bill is challenged on grounds that it improperly yields the Congressional power of the purse to the executive branch.

Feb. 1 — The Reagan Administration, discovering that Nicaragua threatens the Tennessee-Tombigbee Canal, seeks \$21 million in humanitarian aid, including poison gas, for the "contras."

March 1 — Six Government employees are charged with spying. C.I.A. Director Casey demands that all members of Congress submit to lie-detector tests. Admiral Poindexter, President Reagan's national security adviser, objects on grounds that nobody could expect mere machines to meet such a challenge.

March 15 — Representative Jack Kemp, not yet an announced Presidential candidate, makes a pilgrimage to the birthplace of the Rev. Jerry Falwell to announce a crusade to redeem the Holy Land for the American family.

April 1 — Gramm-Rudman-Hollings is challenged in the courts as an improper exercise of executive power.

April 15 — Pat Buchanan, taking over as national security adviser after Admiral Poindexter's ouster, says he'd be glad to take a lie-detector test, having leaked nothing sensational since the Nixon Administration.

May 1 — Vice President Bush, not yet an announced Presidential candidate, makes a pilgrimage to the grave of Joe McCarthy, where he demands: "Who promoted Peress?"

June 1 — Amtrak announces that it has cut off five more trains, eliminated 10 cities from its routes and raised fares, in order to prove to the Reagan Administration that Amtrak is efficient and necessary.

June 15 — Senator Bob Dole, no more an announced Presidential candidate than anyone else, makes a pilgrimage to the front porch of William

McKinley, from which he challenges Gramm-Rudman-Hollings for not saving money on Social Security.

July 1 — Senator Edward M. Kennedy announces that his nephew Joe will not be a candidate for President in 1988, and maybe not even in 1992.

Aug. 1 — Unemployment falls by .005 percentage points, enabling Larry Speakes to announce that President Reagan wishes to share the credit with Donald Regan.

Aug. 15 — Gramm-Rudman-Hollings is challenged by some conservatives on grounds it might cause taxes to go up.

Aug. 16 — Gramm-Rudman-Hollings is challenged by some liberals on grounds that it will not produce new revenues.

Sept. 1 — President Reagan's poll standing rises above 90, prompting Donald Regan to share the credit with President Reagan.

Sept. 15 — Just before meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, or maybe just after, President Reagan announces that "Star Wars" is not a bargaining chip and neither is Donald Regan.

Oct. 1 — Former Senators Gary Hart of Colorado and Howard Baker of Tennessee, neither of whom is an announced Presidential candidate, disclose plans for a joint, nonpartisan "four-eye" pilgrimage to Italy, Ireland, Israel and Iowa.

Oct. 15 — Jeane Kirkpatrick makes a pilgrimage to the graveyard of the San Francisco Democrats, where from Geraldine Ferraro's old podium she announces that she has no plans to accept the Republican nomination for Vice President in 1988.

Nov. 1 — Americans having got a better look at the professional political aspirants to the Presidency, none of which is as yet an announced candidate, speculation rises about such non-professional possibilities as Lee Iacocca, Peter Ueberroth, the Rev. Pat Robertson and Charlton Heston.

Nov. 5 — After winning overwhelming re-election against a challenger from the Vegetarian Party, Governor Mario Cuomo announces that he intends to carry out his responsibilities to the people of New York.

Nov. 15 — Senators Gramm, Rudman and Hollings challenge Gramm-Rudman-Hollings on general principles, whatever they are.

Dec. 1 — Sylvester Stallone portrays a Secretary of Defense in a film called "Dirty Rambo," with Clint Eastwood making twin cameo appearances as President Reagan and Donald Regan.

Dec. 15 — Governor Cuomo announces that his son will head a blue-ribbon panel to determine whether running for President is one of his responsibilities to the people of New York. Mayor Koch will not be a member.

Dec. 31 — All parties discover that Gramm-Rudman-Hollings has solved nothing. □